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Blank Page II **BETHANY MACKENZIE**

Does this paper know what I'm doing to it?

Does it object to the conclusions I create?

Does it think about the meaning of its existence?

Or is it my job to imbue it with meaning?

Did it have any before? Sleek, white void,

Or just the processed flesh  
of a dead, fibrous creature  
that's been attacked with bleach,  
forcibly whitened  
by meaty hands.

If that's the case, then

do the fibrous trees rebel against their meaty oppressors?

Do the trees struggle so that their children

have a chance to escape their sleek, white fate?

No. They are still as the grave.

Am I imposing? Am I corrupting?

Have I destroyed the beauty of the world

by trying to pry open its mysteries

like the gut of some meaty creature?

Must I kill to know beauty?

Or must I scar or taint or maim?

Or can I find a way,

like the tree —like the page,

of being still  
and containing  
all the infinite possibilities?